

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum device comprising
a plurality of refrigeration devices ~~[[10]]~~,
a compressor device ~~[[16]]~~ connected to the refrigeration devices
~~[[10]]~~ via medium supply conduits ~~[[12]]~~,
5 medium return conduits ~~[[14]]~~ connected to the refrigeration devices
~~[[10]]~~ and the compressor device ~~[[16]]~~,
a storage container ~~[[20]]~~ connected to the medium supply conduits
~~[[12]]~~ and the medium return conduits ~~[[14]]~~ via connection conduits ~~[[22,24]]~~,
a supply valve ~~[[26]]~~ arranged in the connection conduit ~~[[22]]~~
10 between the medium supply conduits ~~[[12]]~~ and the storage containers ~~[[20]]~~, ~~and~~
a pressure measurement device provided only in the medium supply
conduit or only in the medium return conduit,
a control unit ~~[[32]]~~ connected to ~~[[a]]~~ the pressure measurement
device ~~[[30]]~~ for measuring the pressure of the medium and to the supply valve
15 ~~[[26]]~~, ~~provided to control~~ the control unit controlling the supply valve ~~[[26]]~~ in
dependence on the measured pressure~~[[,]]~~
~~characterized in that~~
~~a pressure measurement device (30) is provided only in the medium~~
~~supply conduit (12) or only in the medium return conduit (14).~~
2. (Currently Amended) The vacuum device according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that the determination of~~ further including determining a threshold
value or threshold range for controlling the supply valve ~~[[26]]~~ ~~is performed~~ in
dependence on a refrigeration-device characteristic line.
3. (Currently Amended) The vacuum device according to claim 1
~~[[or 2]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further including a return valve~~[[,]]~~ connected to the
control unit ~~[[32], is]]~~ and arranged in the connection conduit ~~[[24]]~~ between the
medium return conduit ~~[[14]]~~ and the storage container ~~[[20]]~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The vacuum device according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]], characterized in that~~ further including a nozzle ~~[[28]]~~ with a preferably small orifice ~~[[is]]~~ arranged in the connection conduit ~~[[24]]~~ between the medium return conduit ~~[[14]]~~ and the storage container ~~[[20]]~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a vacuum device as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein,

if the pressure measured by the pressure measurement device exceeds a maximum threshold value ~~measured by the pressure measurement device (30)~~, the
5 supply valve ~~[[26]]~~ is opened to cause medium to flow into the storage container ~~[[20]]~~, and

if the pressure measured by the pressure measurement device falls below a minimum threshold value ~~measured by the pressure measurement device (30)~~, the return valve is opened to cause medium to flow from the storage container
10 ~~[[20]]~~ into the medium return conduit ~~[[14]]~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a vacuum device as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein,

if the pressure measured by the pressure measurement device exceeds a maximum threshold value ~~measured by the pressure measurement device (30)~~, the
5 supply valve ~~[[26]]~~ is opened to cause medium to flow into the storage container ~~[[20]]~~, and

in case of a corresponding pressure difference, medium is caused to flow through ~~[[the]]~~ a nozzle ~~[[28]]~~ into the medium return conduit ~~[[14]]~~ until, due to the change of the pressure difference at the refrigeration de-vices ~~[[10]]~~, the
10 pressure in the medium supply conduit ~~[[12]]~~ exceeds the maximum threshold value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling a vacuum device according to claim 5 ~~[[or 6]]~~, wherein the supply of medium by means of the compressor device ~~[[16]]~~ is continuous.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling a vacuum device according to ~~any one of claims 5-7~~ claim 5, wherein medium is supplied from the storage container ~~[(20)]~~ only to the medium return conduits.

9. (New) The method for controlling a vacuum device according to claim 6, wherein the supply of medium by means of the compressor device is continuous.

10. (New) The method for controlling a vacuum device according to claim 6, wherein medium is supplied from the storage container only to the medium return conduits.

11. (New) A vacuum system comprising:
- a plurality of refrigeration devices;
 - medium supply conduits which supply a refrigeration medium to the refrigeration devices in parallel;
 - 5 a compressor which supplies the refrigeration medium to the medium supply conduits in a compressed state at a supply pressure;
 - medium return conduits which return the refrigeration medium from the refrigeration devices to the compressor at a return pressure lower than the supply pressure;
 - 10 a storage container for storing refrigeration medium;
 - a first valve which supplies refrigeration medium from the medium supply conduits to the storage container in response to one of the supply pressure in the medium supply conduits exceeding a supply pressure threshold or the return pressure in the medium return conduits falling below a return pressure threshold,
 - 15 reducing the supply pressure in the medium supply conduits;
 - a nozzle or valve which supplies refrigeration medium from the storage container into the medium return lines when pressure in the storage container exceeds the return pressure, raising the return pressure;

whereby a pressure differential between the supply pressure and the
20 return pressure is maintained without measuring both the supply pressure and the
return pressure.